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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Msgr. Clement J. Connolly, Holy Family Church, South Pasadena, CA.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Msgr. Clement J. Connolly, offered the following prayer:

Ever present living God, here words are spoken, decisions are made that shape the lives and times of generations. We are entrusted with the sacred stewardship of legislating decisions for life and death. Not merely the quality of life is ours to measure, but even the length of life, and for a multitude. Once within our time and hearing a prophetic voice proclaimed Your gospel values in "a dream": peace, dignity, equality, community. Was it just a dream or the groaning of a great prayer asking for an Amen?

When we yearn for peace,
When power becomes powerless,
When riches and poverty meet,
When the one language of love unites us,

When the courage of our belief is unfettered from special interests,
When we see ourselves in the face of the other, the lion and the lamb lay down.

Your word is revealed. You, Creator God, are present.
Divine Wisdom, abide here so that every word spoken and every vote cast may be a prayer. The cause and the purpose may always give life, dignity, freedom, honor . . . above and beyond personal or factional preference.

Thus so we pray, One Nation Under God, in the Name of that infinite God, Mystery, Many Faces, Father, Mother, Sister, Brother, Allah, Yahweh, Jesus Christ. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I announce the schedule for the day. This morning, there will be a period of morning business for up to 2 hours. The first 60 minutes will be under the control of Senator ALEXANDER and Senator MURKOWSKI, and the final 60 minutes will be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

Upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate will resume the consideration of the nomination of Miguel Estrada to be a circuit judge for the DC Circuit Court. Also, today the Senate will recess from the hours of 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly party caucuses.

As a reminder, Senators who desire to speak on the nomination are asked to do so during today's session.

I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. While the acting majority leader is in the Chamber, I say through him to the majority leader that I certainly am appreciative of—and I think I speak for the entire Senate—his setting aside time for Senators to give their maiden speeches. Some may think this is a waste of time. From personal experience, when I gave my first speech on the Senate floor, presiding was David Pryor, and listening in his office was CHUCK GRASSLEY. My speech was on the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights, which I worked on my entire time in the House of Representatives. The subcommittee chairman did not like the legislation and would not do anything on it. To make a long story short, Sen-

ator Pryor sent me a note and said he liked my speech and liked the legislation I was talking about. Senator GRASSLEY also contacted me that day. They were both senior members of the Finance Committee, and as a result of their support I was able to get that legislation passed, which was landmark legislation, putting the taxpayer on a more equal footing with the tax collector.

I say to Senator ALEXANDER and others who will give their maiden speeches: People listen. These speeches really are meaningful.

I look forward to Senator ALEXANDER's speech. In fact, I will be joining with him in the legislation he is going to introduce.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 2 hours. Under the previous order, the first 30 minutes is under the control of the Senator from Tennessee, Mr. ALEXANDER.

The majority leader is recognized.

MAIDEN SPEECHES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, first of all, I thank the new Senators who are here. I heard my distinguished colleague from Nevada talk a little bit about what we are about to embark upon. It is a rich tradition of this body. In the last few years, we have gotten away from having what we call a "maiden speech." It is not the first time we have heard from our freshmen

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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